

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 498

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Kenneth W. Lowe, chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer of Scripps Networks Interactive.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take pleasure in recognizing those venerable business leaders and innovators whose dedication and acumen serve to better the world in which we live; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Kenneth W. Lowe, founder of Home and Garden Television (HGTV) and chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer of Scripps Networks Interactive, a leading global lifestyle content developer for television, the internet, and other media platforms; and

WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Mr. Lowe received a bachelor's degree in radio, television, and motion pictures from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; he began his career in radio with Southern Broadcasting in 1969 and continued in various management positions in radio and television with Harte-Hanks Broadcasting in the late 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Lowe joined the E.W. Scripps Company in 1980 as general manager of the company's radio properties; in 1988, he became vice president of programming, promotion, and marketing for the company's nine network-affiliated television stations; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, Mr. Lowe pitched his idea for HGTV to the company's board of directors, securing a \$25 million investment; the network launched in 1994 and became profitable after only three years, serving as the catalyst and foundation for growth of Knoxville-based Scripps Networks; and

WHEREAS, after twenty years with The E.W. Scripps Company, Mr. Lowe was named president and chief executive officer of the company in 2000; under his leadership, the company

evolved into one of America's most forward-thinking media companies, creating significant long-term shareholder value along the way. He served in this capacity until 2008, when Scripps Networks Interactive became a separate, publicly traded company; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, Kenneth Lowe served as chairman and chief executive officer of Scripps Networks, building the company into one of the world's fastest growing and most successful creators of unique brands for cable television and the internet; he oversaw the acquisition and transformation of Food Network into an American pop culture icon and presided over the launches of the DIY Network and Cooking Channel, as well as acquisitions of the Travel Channel, Asian Food Channel, and Great American Country television networks; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, Kenneth Lowe has directed the company's rapid expansion as a global media company, including the 2015 acquisition of TVN, Poland's premier multi-platform, multi-channel media company—the largest single investment in Poland by a United States company to date; he also guided the development of the company's growing portfolio of interactive content services in the food, home, and travel lifestyle categories; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowe has often been duly recognized for his many contributions to media throughout his career. In 2016, he was honored with the James A. Haslam II Chairman's Leadership Award by the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and in 2017, he was inducted into the Cable Hall of Fame and received an honorary doctorate in humane letters from the University of Tennessee; he is a member of the Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame, the Junior Achievement Cincinnati Business Hall of Fame, the Junior Achievement of East Tennessee Business Hall of Fame, and the North Carolina Broadcasting Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Lowe's leadership, Scripps Networks Interactive has contributed greatly to the Knoxville community; the company has been honored for its efforts with the Governor's Volunteer Stars Award from Volunteer Tennessee, the Corporation of the Year Award from Volunteer Knoxville, Goodfriend Award from East Tennessee Children's Hospital, Advocacy Award from Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee, and Top 30 Donor Award from MEDIC Regional Blood Center; and

WHEREAS, a trusted leader in his field, Kenneth Lowe has served on the boards of many business, community, and media-sector organizations over the years; he currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association, The Paley Center for Media, and The Cable Center. After facilitating the pending merger of Scripps Networks with Discovery Communications, he will also serve on Discovery's board of directors; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Lowe resides in Knoxville, Tennessee; Scottsdale, Arizona; and Sea Island, Georgia, with his wife, Julia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lowe is a media visionary who took his idea for a cable network about homes and gardens and turned it into a global media lifestyle content giant operating in 175 countries around the world, and he continues to ably serve at the helm of Scripps Networks Interactive; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we commend Kenneth W. Lowe, chairman of the board, president, and chief executive officer of Scripps Networks Interactive, for his important contributions to media worldwide, extending our sincere best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.